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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Trade in Goods and
Services, and Commodities
Expert Meeting on Audiovisual Services:
Improving Participation of Developing Countries
Geneva, 13-15 November 2002
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Audiovisual services: Improving participation of developing countries

4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1: Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Expert Meeting elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the Expert Meeting is reproduced in section I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/EM.20/1	Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: Audiovisual services: Improving participation of developing countries

3. The Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities decided to convene an UNCTAD Expert Meeting on Audiovisual Services: Improving Participation of Developing Countries.

4. The discussions under this substantive item will serve to provide UNCTAD member States with a better understanding of trade in audiovisual services and its role in the development of the developing countries. Presentations by experts will contribute to a better understanding of the factors that may contribute to the successful building of national capacities, and the major concerns of developing countries in this area from the development and trade perspectives. In this connection, the Expert Meeting will consider the development concerns, including social and cultural issues, of developing countries. It will consider the trade dimension and the issues that confront developing countries in improving their participation in international trade. It is hoped that deliberations under this item will provide an insight into the options available to national policy makers in attaining development goals at the regional level, overcoming market size limitations and acquiring trade-related experience, as well as in determining the issues that should be dealt with at the multilateral level and in discussions at the international level of interest to developing countries.

5. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note entitled "Audiovisual services: Improving participation of developing countries" (TD/B/COM.1/EM.20/2). In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare brief papers on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/EM.20/2 "Audiovisual services: Improving participation of developing countries"

Item 4: Adoption of the report of the meeting

6. The report of the Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities at its next session. The Expert Meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chairperson, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

Inputs from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately 5 pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting. They should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting. Papers, which will draw on experts' experience, will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. An expert paper may address one or more of the following issues:

Ways for developing countries to ensure their supply capacity in the audiovisual sector

- ✓ What role do audiovisual services play in the economy and how important is their contribution in terms of employment and GDP?
- ✓ On the basis of national experience, what are the factors that contribute to and determine success in building the audiovisual industry? In what way does competitiveness depend on established infrastructure and the value chain of production?
- ✓ What are the elements that developing countries may adopt in their strategies aimed at preserving their competitiveness with foreign audiovisual products in their markets?
- ✓ How to take advantage of opportunities and face the challenges of new digital technologies, as well as to ensure access to and availability of the technological infrastructure, while addressing the digital divide in the environment of convergence in the media industries?
- ✓ What role are public service operators expected to play in the future, especially in the light of technological change, and what are the best ways, including regional efforts, to ensure effective delivery of their services?
- ✓ What is the role of co-production agreements in developing the domestic industry?

Trade policy issues based on national experiences

- ✓ How may developing countries benefit from trade? What are the possible implications of trade liberalization for their growth and development?
- ✓ How to build export capacity in the niche markets as an input into the value chain of production?
- ✓ What types of subsidies are important from the development perspective in the audiovisual sector?
- ✓ What measures may be identified to ensure implementation of the local content provision? How effective would these measures be and in what way would they be applied?
- ✓ What are the main concerns about, and impediments to, trade in audiovisual services? What issues of fair competition are important in this sector and how may they affect trade?
- ✓ What concerns emerge in relation to the temporary movement of crews and artists abroad and what are the main issues in this area?
- ✓ How should strategies differ with respect to different audiovisual products exported at the regional level?

Experts are requested to submit papers by 1 November 2002 to:

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